

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated April 23, 2009 within one month. Claims 1-6, 8-54 and 56-97 were pending in the application and the Examiner states that the claims are subject to restriction action and/or election requirement. Support for the amended claims may be found in the originally-filed specification, figures and claims, and thus, no new matter is added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

The Examiner asserts a Restriction Requirement under PCT Rule 13.1 and 37 CFR 1.499 requiring restriction of the application into seven Groups (I – VII). The Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 49, respectively link inventions I-VII, and claims 30 and 78 will be examined with the elected Group. The Examiner also asserts that the claims include more than one Species of the generic invention (IA, IB, IC, IIA, IIB, IIC), so Applicants must select a Species if Applicants select Group I or II.

Applicants elect Group I (consisting of 2-6, 29, 32-37, 48, 50-54, 77, 80-85, 96, along with the linking claims 1 and 49, claims 30 and 78) and Species IA (Figure 3a), for prosecution in this application. Applicants select Group I and Species IA in order to expedite prosecution of this application. Applicants also amend certain claims.

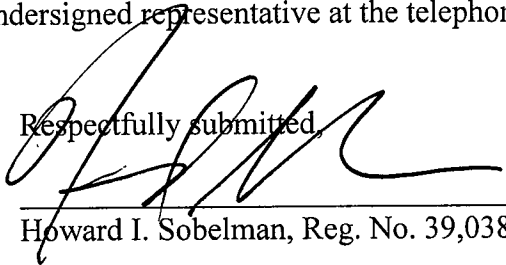
Applicants do not traverse, but do not acquiesce to the Examiner's foundation for the Restriction Requirement as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the foregoing election is made without waiver, estoppel or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The foregoing amendments conforms this application to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated April 23, 2009. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: May 19, 2009

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Respectfully submitted,


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